

5,000 honor murdered Panthers

By Clark Kissinger
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Chicago

A sense of unity unparalleled in the black community has developed here in the aftermath of the slaying of Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

Over 5000 people filed past the coffin of Illinois Black Panther party chairman Hampton in a memorial service last week.

Addressing the service, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, declared: "The nation that conquered Nazi Germany is following the same brutal course as Nazi Germany."

Looking down at Hampton's body, Abernathy emotionally intoned: "I want to tell you this, Freddy—you didn't die in vain. We're going to see to it that you did not die in vain. But I don't think you'll rest in peace, Freddy, because there isn't going to be any peace."

Hampton, 21 and Clark, 22, were cut down in a police raid on a Panther office-residence in the early hours of Dec. 4. Four other party members were wounded. Police claim self-defense, but increasing evidence points to murder.

Thousands of black Chicagoans have been admitted to the apartment to view the bullet holes in the wall, the bloody bed where Hampton was slain and other evidence in the building pointing to contradictions in the official police story.

Black students at a number of high schools staged mass walkouts to attend the memorial. At Harrison High School, 1400 students walked out after the school principal refused to allow a memorial service for Hampton and Clark.

About 150 then marched to police headquarters to protest the slayings.

The day after the memorial, the Panthers conducted a news conference, gave details of the assassination revealed for the first time and produced evidence demonstrating there was no "shootout," as police claimed, but a "shoot-in."

Bobby Rush, acting chairman of the Illinois Black Panther party, said that state attorney Edward Hanrahan, who ordered the raid, Richard Jalovec, chief of Hanrahan's special prosecution unit and judge Robert Collins, who issued the search order for the raid, "conspired to murder" the Panthers along with 14 policemen who raided the apartment.

Rush said a truckload of state's attorney police, armed with machineguns, waited outside the apartment until the lights were turned out inside. He said Sgt. Daniel Groth, who led the raiding party, went to the back door. When someone inside asked, "Who is it?" Groth answered, "Tommy." Asked, "Tommy who?" Groth replied, "Tommy gun." With that, Rush said, police broke into the front and back doors, firing wildly. Clark was slain almost immediately.

"Where's Hampton—is he dead?" shouted policeman James Davis. "I don't know," replied another cop. "He's still in the bedroom." Davis, according to Rush, raced into the bedroom, fired shots and emerged moments later, commenting, "Well, if he wasn't dead then, he's dead now."

Rush stated that the Panthers did not engage in a gunfight and that the police did all the shooting. The entire episode took five minutes.

A split seems to have developed in Chicago's ruling class over the murder. On one side is the ultra-reactionary Chicago Tribune, which has become a virtual spokesman for Hanrahan and the police. On the other are the Marshall Field newspapers (the Sun Times and Daily News), less reactionary elements and liberals such as Sen. Charles Percy, Adlai Stevenson 3rd and several Congressmen. The Tri-



Three of 21 Los Angeles prisoners, apprehended four days after Chicago murders.